

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled) The combination of a tubular housing with end flange being dimensioned so as to provide an interference fit therebetween and being assembled via a heat-shrink assembly process, the housing including a plurality of grooves formed therein and adhesive being applied to the housing in the vicinity of the grooves.

Sub b > 2. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ combination of claim 54 wherein the depth of the plurality of grooves is less than the amount of the interference fit between the tubular housing and the end flange.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ combination of claim 54 wherein the plurality of grooves are each approximately .250 inch wide.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ combination of claim 3 wherein the amount of interference fit is approximately .010 inch and the depth of the plurality of grooves is approximately .005 inch.

5. (Original) A method of providing a gas-tight joint between an end flange that expands upon heating and a tubular housing having a plurality of grooves formed therein, the end flange and the tubular housing being dimensioned to provide an interference fit, the method comprising heating the end flange, applying adhesive to the tubular housing about the plurality of grooves, and assembling the tubular housing and the end flange so that the end flange is positioned over the plurality of grooves.

6. (Original) A gas-tight housing having a tubular housing and end flange that are dimensioned and assembled to provide an interference fit therebetween via a heat-shrink assembly process, the improvement comprising the housing including a plurality of grooves formed therein to which adhesive is applied.